

DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH EMPOWERMENT & ADVOCACY DIVISION

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NATIONAL

- The final rules for the Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act have been released. The parity law, which also applies to health insurance policies offered through state exchanges under the Affordable Care Act, recognizes how integral mental health is to overall health and ends discrimination toward people with mental health and substance use conditions. However, the final rules do not at this time apply to people receiving Medicaid or Medicaid expansion benefits.

CALIFORNIA AND LOCAL

- The Agenda for the November 21 meeting of the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC) includes a Roundtable Discussion on Peer Respite Centers. Among the subject matter experts speaking on this topic are Keris Myrick, Executive Director and CEO of Project Return Peer Support Network, and Eduardo Vega, former DMH E&A Director.
- The work group to develop the LAC-DMH proposal to submit to the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC) is finalizing the principles governing the staffing and focus of the “triage teams” funded by the Mental Health Wellness Act of 2013 (Steinberg SB 82). Some of these teams will be dedicated to serving TAY and Older Adult clients, and all of them will include peer specialists in triage roles.
- The Network of Care website offers a Personal Health Record (PHR) to organize and store important medical and healthcare-related information. The information is stored “on a secure Verisign-encrypted server, the same server used for online banking.” As long as you have access to the internet, “the Network of Care PHR is available whenever and wherever you need it.”



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